tungsten, for example. Amber, some kinds of wood, teeth, and many other materials besides a limited number of minerals also possess fluorescent properties.

In addition to this new exhibit some valuable additions to the strategic mineral display have been made through the coöperation of the Northern California Mineral Society and Mr. William B. Pitts, Honorary Curator of Gem Minerals in the Academy.

AFRICAN HALL PROVES NEMESIS OF LOCAL HAWK POPULATION

DESPITE THE fact that promoting the conservation of wildlife, both predators and prey alike, is one of the primary aims of the Academy, the Simson African Hall has seemingly had a malevolent effect on the local Cooper Hawk population. By sheer coincidence within the past few months two of these birds have fallen dead in exactly the same spot outside the quarters of the Department of Exhibits on the southeast side of the African Hall.

In the late afternoon of December 1, 1942, a dull thud against the roof of this building, followed by the crash of a body to the Department of Exhibits' porch below, led to the discovery of a dead Cooper Hawk. An autopsy showed that a small shot in the heart rather than a crash against the building was the cause of death.

Again in the afternoon of February 23, 1943, a shattering of window glass on the second floor of the African Hall, followed by a thud on the Department of Exhibits' porch, was heard. Mr. Tose, Chief of Exhibits, suggested dryly to Miss Harris, his assistant, that it might be another Cooper Hawk. His guess proved correct. This time the cause of death was a broken neck resulting from impact against the plate glass window.

Perhaps a sign is in order advising hawks that they approach these premises at their own risk.

STUDENT MEETING TO BE HELD IN MAY

THE NEXT meeting of student members of the Academy will be held in the Simson African Hall on Saturday, May 8. Announcement of the program will be made in the NEWS LETTER for May.

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ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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ALASKA HUSKIES
Photographed by Alfred Milotte

SCAIFE LECTURE ON APRIL 7
(See inside page for announcement)

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April Announcement

THE REGULAR APRIL MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in the Scottish Rite Auditorium, Sutter Street and Van Ness Avenue, on Wednesday evening, April 7, 1943, at eight o'clock. After a brief business meeting the first of the spring series of Lectures on The Beauties of Nature on the Walter B. Scaife Foundation, will be presented. The guest speaker of the evening will be Mrs. Alfred Milotte who, by popular demand, will show again the colored motion picture taken by herself and her husband entitled:

Alaska's International Highway

It will be recalled that this film was presented at the November meeting of the Academy. Although nearly five hundred people were accommodated at this first showing, more than eleven hundred had to be turned away by reason of limited seating facilities. So many requests have been received for another showing of this attractive film that Mrs. Milotte has agreed to bring it to San Francisco and to substitute as lecturer for her husband, Alfred Milotte, who is now Visual Aid Coördinator at North American Aviation, Inc., Inglewood, California.

The Milottes have spent a number of years in various portions of Alaska acquiring an intimate knowledge of this great Territory and its people. They devoted nearly two years to exploring that portion of this vast wilderness through which our present lines of communication are being rapidly extended by means of the new International Highway. In the course of their travels they literally shot their way, photographically speaking, through these primitive, unmapped areas of Alaska and northern British Columbia, securing extraordinary pictures of caribou, deer, fox, wolf, mountain sheep, and other wildlife.

Arthur Milotte is widely known for his artistic photographic interpretations of Alaskan life and scenery. Many of his northern pictorial studies have been hung in national salons. His preparation for this work included study of art at the University of Washington, Cornish Art School, the Chicago Art Institute, and the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts. Mrs. Milotte, who studied zoölogy at the University of Washington, has accompanied her husband through the Alaskan wilderness, participating in journeys that were long and difficult, and often hazardous, as when they secured their action pictures of Alaskan grizzly bears. Persons who have seen these pictures have called them the finest big-game sequences ever filmed in the North.

Academy's Ninetieth Anniversary

PERIODICALLY some community in the West celebrates its beginnings with a fiesta, featuring bearded miners, vaqueros on horseback, and stovepipe hats, Prince Albert coats, and assorted firearms for the well-dressed man. No one on such an occasion has thought to equip himself with a butterfly net, a botanist's vasculum or a microscope. Yet the accoutrements of the scientist would be just as appropriate as whiskers, miners' shirts, high boots, and firearms. For the Forty-Niners had hardly more than arrived in California and staked out their claims when they took time out to organize an Academy of Sciences.

On April 4, 1853, seven men met in an office on the west side of Montgomery Street, between Commercial and Sacramento streets, to discuss the organization of a society for the promotion of science. These men were: Dr. Albert Randall, Dr. Henry Gibbons, Dr. Albert Kellogg, Col. Thomas J. Nevins, Dr. John B. Trask, Dr. Charles Farris, and Mr. Lewis W. Sloat. On May 16, after two meetings in the interim, a constitution and by-laws were formally adopted. On May 23 officers were elected, and on June 27, 1853, the Academy was legally incorporated.

The objectives of the Academy were, in the slightly quaint wording of its first constitution, "the investigation and development of Natural Science, the collection of a cabinet of Specimens and a Library to embrace the standard and current works on Natural History and Natural Science together with such choice miscellaneous literature as may be contributed by the friends and patrons of the institution."

Today, after ninety years, the "cabinet of specimens" has become a great museum, and the Library doubtless exceeds the highest hopes of the earliest members. Yet the original objectives remain unchanged. In the spirit of its founders, the California Academy of Sciences looks to the future.

New Fluorescent Exhibit

FOR THE PAST few years the exhibit of fluorescent minerals in the Mineral Hall of the Academy's West Wing Museum Building has proved both interesting and educational to the visiting public. Certain mechanical difficulties as well as too much interference from daylight, however, have detracted from its success. These difficulties have now been overcome in a new fluorescent display which has just been completed. An entirely new installation has been made at one end of this hall which has been partly partitioned off to produce a fairly good "black-out room."

Fluorescence, as many of our readers may know, is the property possessed by many minerals and other substances of absorbing ultra-violet (invisible) radiation, thereby becoming activated so that they emit energy in the form of longer light waves which correspond to various parts of the visible spectrum. Certain very practical applications of this discovery have been made in recent years. Perhaps most notable is the perfection of the fluorescent tube which is rapidly replacing our older methods of artificial illumination. Less known and publicized, but perhaps of equal importance particularly in these days of war, is the use of our knowledge of the fluorescent properties of certain strategic minerals in searching for ore. Special portable ultra-violet light units are now regularly taken into the field by prospectors and are proving invaluable in the location of new sources of certain essential substances, such as